



# Bridges to You

DECEMBER 2020

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Resident's Feedback on The Bridge House
- 2020-2021 Capital Projects
- Support The Bridge House for Free
- ONLINE GIVING TOOL

## Resident's Feedback on The Bridge House

Our residents are struggling to get a better life after years with a substance use disorder. Among immediate and long-term goals are maintaining sobriety, being employed, pursuing physical health (after years of neglect), pursuing spiritual connections in churches, establishing social connections in the recovery network, and trying to heal family relationships. All are vital to long-term recovery.

This year has been particularly challenging with COVID-19 for men pursuing recovery. Out-of-program support groups are limited to virtual

meetings. Overnight visits with family are curtailed to prevent infection spread. Employment is limited. It is difficult to find a sponsor or mentor to connect with. Feeling "cooped up" wears on emotions, especially for men in the early stages of recovery from alcohol and drug addiction.

Our staff also face many struggles. The common risk to themselves and their loved ones is just going to work. Most of what we do is not remote, we must be at the houses. Safety protocols have been put in place to reduce exposure. COVID (testing is regular. The new "normal" is taxing.(cont. pg 2)



## This Year's Capital Projects

Even with the pandemic slowing down much of the typical activity in our world, the wear and tear for our two houses continues. If anything, it increases with the men being here for longer periods of time.

There are three projects for this fiscal year (which ends on June 30, 2021).

The first is the replacement of the fire detectors in the Alpha House. Beginning in

November we have had 4 false alarms. The fire detectors are the original detectors and are decades old. The Framingham Fire Department showed up each time but let us know there must be a problem. We contacted our fire alarm vendor and found out the cost is \$3,000.00.

The second project is to replace two of our resident bathroom showers and repair one of the ( cont. pg 2)

## Resident's Feedback—(continued)

Even as we face these challenges, residents are given satisfaction surveys to give us performance reviews for our staff and the program. If they want to vent, complain, or compliment, they do this without fear of recrimination. The most recent survey revealed the perspective of the men we serve.

The results are shared with the managers and staff and open for comments and suggestions on how to keep doing what is succeeding and improve on weaker areas.

There are two parts to the survey. The first part is an objective assessment to the program including admissions, food, cleanliness, and interaction with operations

and clinical staff. The second part is the subjective section. The resident may write comments for the many parts to the program and the staff.

Given the peak of the COVID pandemic, I expected low scores on all fronts and some very harsh comments.

I was pleasantly surprised how well the staff and the program did on the objective part. There were no dissatisfaction averages on any part of the program. The weaker scores came for the location of the house in Framingham, (this limits interaction), desire for cleaner, and more sanitary conditions including more involvement in chores. We

have increased sanitary protocols including social distancing, masks, plexiglass shields at the medication room, hand sanitizers near entrances, and limiting entrances to one door in each building; however, in the middle of a pandemic we understand the fear of contracting the virus. On the very positive scores, the residents felt good in their progress in their treatment and recovery. The highest scores came for their relationships with their clinicians and supervisors. A very caring network of professionals' work at The Bridge House. On the subjective part of (cont. pg 3)

## Capital Project—(continued)

floors with water damage. The cost will be at least \$7,500.00 but likely will be twice that once the walls and floor are exposed to find the problem.

The third project is to replace the bedroom furniture in our four-man dormitory in the Tm Bolton House. It is old and falling apart. The replacement

furniture is commercial grade which includes heavy duty bed frames, a heavy-duty bed bug proof mattress, wardrobes (there are no closets in this room), and a chest of drawers for each man. The cost is \$17,000.00.

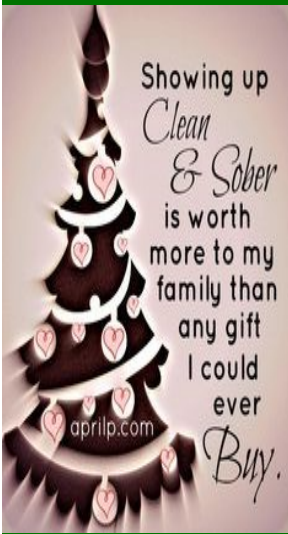
Altogether, the cost for this year's capital projects will be \$28,000.00 to

\$35,000.00 depending on the bathroom project.

If you would like to contribute for any of these projects, please note **Capital Improvements** on the memo portion of the check.

May God bless each of you this holiday season.

Dave



## Resident's Feedback—(continued)

the program there were numerous compliments for the staff. Their honesty, compassion, and care are noted by many residents. Included are these comments: *I am forever grateful for the Bridge House . . . , Everyone who works here has been super helpful and respectful towards people that live here . . . , This place has helped me stay alive and move forward with my life. . . , How the program helps us save money . . . , I like the fact we are allowed to talk about God . . . , The spiritual aspect is incorporated . . . , How easy it is to approach staff with problems, concerns, and issues.*

Thanks to all the supporters, churches, businesses, and foundations for their faithful support which helps keep the doors open for The Bridge House.

Dave Lang

Executive Director



## Support the Bridge House for Free

There are a number of quick and easy ways to give to the Bridge House without actually sending in a check to the ministry.

If you use the internet and a search engine or if you shop on the internet here is how to do it:

Raise money for New England Aftercare Ministries just by searching the Internet or shopping with [www.GoodSearch.com](http://www.GoodSearch.com) (powered by Yahoo), or shopping online with [www.GoodShop.com](http://www.GoodShop.com) or

shopping online at Smile Amazon at : <https://smile.amazon.com/>. Just choose New England Aftercare Ministries as the benefactor.

Click on either or both websites to set up your toolbar to search the web and support us at the same time!

Thanks for thinking of us and raising money to help people in recovery from substance abuse disorders!



## **THE BRIDGE HOUSE**

**A Ministry of New England Aftercare  
Ministries**

**18 Summit St.**

**Framingham, MA 01702**

**[www.thebridgehouse.org](http://www.thebridgehouse.org)**

**Admissions/ intake: 508-872-6194 ext. 105**

**[dave@thebridgehouse.org](mailto:dave@thebridgehouse.org)**

Help is at hand:

**Emergency Assistance: 911**

State of Massachusetts Addiction Helpline:

**1-800-327-5050**

Support for Care Givers:

**Learn to Cope: [learn2cope.org](http://learn2cope.org)**

**Allies In Recovery: [alliesinrecovery.net](http://alliesinrecovery.net)**

The Bridge House has been serving adult men with substance abuse problems for over 30 years. As a state-licensed residential home The Bridge House brings dedicated staff to serve the men.

New England Aftercare Ministries, as a faith-based Christian entity the mission is to:

PROVIDE A MEANS FOR THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST TO OFFER RECONCILIATION TO GOD AND TO SOCIETY FOR PERSONS WITH SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROBLEMS;

PROVIDE A STRUCTURED, LOVING ENVIRONMENT, BY WHICH THOSE WHO ARE SINCERELY MOTIVATED MIGHT SUCCESSFULLY REENTER SOCIETY;

AID IN BUILDING INTIMATE AND SUPPORTIVE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN CHURCHES AND RESIDENTS IN THE PROGRAM;

MINISTER TO THE NEEDS OF FAMILIES RELATED TO THE PROGRAM;

BE A GOOD WITNESS TO THE LOVE AND POWER OF GOD IN THE COMMUNITY;

ESTABLISH A CENTER OR CENTERS IN WHICH THIS WORK CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED.



*Reconciliation  
to God and Society.*



## **Online Giving Tool for End-of-Year Giving!**

I want to remind you of a tool we have to give to the Bridge House. To give electronically follow the steps below:

1. Go to [www.thebridgehouse.org](http://www.thebridgehouse.org)
2. Click on the Donate or Donate Now Button
3. Select whether you want to make a donation one time or be a regular monthly donor.
4. Fill out the payment information
5. Select the donate button

**Thank You!**

**Thank you for your support !!**